



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Chief Financial Officer and**  
**Assistant Secretary for Administration**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

June 20, 2019

Ms. Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR74581  
411 A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144

RE: FOIA Requests 2019-001412 and 2019-001549

Dear Ms. Best:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests submitted to FOIAonline. The FOIA request with tracking number 2019-001412 we received in our office on June 5, 2019 and the FOIA request with tracking number 2019-001549 we received on June 13, 2019.

We are responding under the FOIA to your request number 2019-001412 for:

“Copies of emails sent to or from either the director's office (or equivalent) as well as their chief of staff (or equivalent) and executive director (or equivalent) containing any of the following 50 (non-case sensitive) words between 1 January 2018 and the present

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. fuck       | 26. ignore        |
| 2. fucks      | 27. unaware       |
| 3. fucked     | 28. cat           |
| 4. fucking    | 29. dog           |
| 5. fucker     | 30. forget        |
| 6. fuckers    | 31. forgot        |
| 7. lol        | 32. candy         |
| 8. haha       | 33. congress      |
| 9. hahaha     | 34. subpoena      |
| 10. shit      | 35. delight       |
| 11. hate      | 36. sun           |
| 12. hates     | 37. musical       |
| 13. god       | 38. song          |
| 14. christian | 39. dance         |
| 15. muslim    | 40. ghost         |
| 16. jewish    | 41. penny         |
| 17. jew       | 42. pennies       |
| 18. party     | 43. antifa        |
| 19. protest   | 44. fun           |
| 20. movie     | 45. unusual       |
| 21. film      | 46. strange       |
| 22. regret    | 47. odd           |
| 23. fear      | 48. unprecedented |
| 24. afraid    | 49. monster       |
| 25. refuse    | 50. magic”        |

We are also responding under the FOIA to your request number 2019-001549 for:

“Copies of emails sent to or from either the director's office (or equivalent) as well as their chief of staff (or equivalent) and executive director (or equivalent) containing any of the following 50 (non-case sensitive) words between 1 January 2018 and the present:

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. damn       | 26. game       |
| 2. damnit     | 27. marijuana  |
| 3. goddamn    | 28. drug       |
| 4. goddam     | 29. activist   |
| 5. goddammit  | 30. activists  |
| 6. webcomic   | 31. riot       |
| 7. hurt       | 32. soda       |
| 8. accuse     | 33. reward     |
| 9. accused    | 34. prize      |
| 10. allege    | 35. save       |
| 11. alleges   | 36. kill       |
| 12. alleged   | 37. decimate   |
| 13. disgrace  | 38. punish     |
| 14. disgraced | 39. punishment |
| 15. worry     | 40. penalize   |
| 16. worries   | 41. penalized  |
| 17. worried   | 42. shred      |
| 18. lost      | 43. wipe       |
| 19. perjury   | 44. erase      |
| 20. perjured  | 45. delete     |
| 21. lie       | 46. bastard    |
| 22. lies      | 47. bitch      |
| 23. lied      | 48. bitched    |
| 24. 1001      | 49. bitching   |
| 25. 1621      | 50. Dessert    |

Under the Department of Commerce’s FOIA regulations, 15 CFR 4.6(d)(3) we have aggregated these requests and will be processing one response to both requests.

Pursuant to 15 CFR 4.11, four requester categories and associated chargeable fees are provided. We are classifying you under the “Commercial Use Requesters” category. Therefore, you are responsible for the costs of search, review, and duplication., Therefore, we are including a fee estimate below.

You requested that we inform you of the total charges in advance of fulfilling your request. The cost of processing your aggregated request is as follows:

The search costs are as follows for the time frame January 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018:

2019-001412 – a preliminary search yielded an estimated at 35,706 unique documents

2019-001549 – a preliminary search yielded an estimated 26,510 unique documents

Our preliminary estimate for processing this aggregated request is therefore 66,216 documents.

Search time – 2 hours x \$56 professional hourly rate = \$112

Review time – 995 hours x \$56 professional hourly rate = \$55,720

Total Fees - \$55,832

Because the total anticipated fees exceed \$250.00 or more, you must make an advance payment of the entire anticipated fee before we can begin to process the request. You may wish to discuss the possibility of narrowing your request in order to meet your needs at a lower cost.

Your agreement to pay fees must be made in writing, must designate an exact dollar you are willing to pay, and must be received **within 30 calendar days** from the date of the notification of this fee estimate. If you fail to submit an agreement to pay the anticipated fees within 30 calendar days from the date of this notice, along with either a check for the full amount of total fees, we will presume that you are no longer interested, and your aggregated requests will be closed.

In addition, we require clarification as to the scope of your request. It is not clear from your request whose records you mean for us to search when you state “director's office (or equivalent)” and “executive director (or equivalent)”. Please provide the names of the employees whose records you wish to have searched, or the position titles used by the Department. This information must also be provided **within 30 calendar days** from the date of this letter, or we will presume that you are no longer interested and your aggregated requests will be closed.

If you have any questions, you may contact Bobbie Parsons, by email [BParsons@doc.gov](mailto:BParsons@doc.gov), or by telephone at (202) 482-3257.

You may also contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Carrie Hyde-Michaels, by telephone at (202) 482-3842 or by email at [efoia@doc.gov](mailto:efoia@doc.gov), or our office in writing at:

Carrie Hyde-Michaels  
Deputy Chief FOIA Officer  
Deputy Program Director for FOIA/ Privacy Act Operations  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Office of Privacy and Open Government  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Room 61015R  
Washington, DC 20230  
Telephone at (202) 482-3842; Email at [CHyde-Michaels@doc.gov](mailto:CHyde-Michaels@doc.gov)

Please refer to your aggregated FOIA request tracking numbers, DOC-IOIS-2019-001412 and DOC-IOIS-2019-001549, when contacting us.

In addition, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. Their contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS  
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001  
e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov);

telephone at 202-741-5770  
toll free at 1-877-684-6448;  
facsimile at 202-741-5769

Sincerely,

Bobbie Parsons  
FOIA Officer, Immediate Office of the Secretary  
Office of Privacy and Open Government